

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6054

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KN, CH, UR, UNGA, MP, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREAN QUESTION AND PUERTO RICO

REF: (A) STATE 181897; (B) STATE 181500; (C) STATE 181798;

(D) STATE 171377; (E) STATE 159509; (F) STATE 163997

1. I CALLED ON MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SIR HAROLD WALTER, ON JULY 28 TO DISCUSS WITH HIM KOREAN QUESTION AND PUERTO RICO IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS. I LEFT WITH HIM DEPARTMENT'S AIDE MEMOIRE ON PUERTO RICO, PRESIDENT FORD'S JUNE 26 STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO, SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS ON KOREA IN HIS JULY 22 SPEECH, AND COPIES OF NORTH KOREAN DEFENSE TREATIES WITH USSR AND PRC. SIR HAROLD PROMISED TO STUDY THESE DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO GOING TO THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE.

2. ON PUERTO RICO, I STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO THIS SUBJECT AT THE COLOMBO MEETING, SINCE WE CONSIDER IT AN INTERNAL MATTER CONCERNING SOLELY THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. I SAID THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY US AN UNACCEPTABLE INTRUSION INTO THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE CONTRARY TO THE NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLE OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERFERENCE BY STATES IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I ADDED

THAT THE USG IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE, AND DISCUSSION OF IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION, WHICH IN TURN COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNGA THIS FALL. THE CUBAN EFFORT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF PUERTO RICO, I SAID, WAS AN ACT OF PARTISANSHIP AND WAS HARDLY EXEMPLARY OF A NON-ALIGNED POSITION IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

3. SIR HAROLD RESPONDED THAT FOR THE GOM THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO WAS A VERY SIMPLE ONE, NAMELY, HAD SELF-DETERMINATION BEEN EXERCISED BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO OR HAD IT NOT? I ASSURED HIM THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAD FREELY CHOSEN THEIR PRESENT STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, THEIR DECISION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE U.N., AND SHOULD THEY AT ANY TIME WISH TO CHANGE THEIR STATUS, FOR EXAMPLE TO INDEPENDENT NATIONHOOD, THE USG WOULD ACCEPT THAT DECISION WITHOUT ANY QUESTION. SIR HAROLD SAID: "IF THEY HAVE DECIDED THE QUESTION THEMSELVES, THEN THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM."

4. ON KOREA, I STRESSED THE POINT THAT SHOULD THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION BE ENDORSED AT COLOMBO THE RESULT WOULD BE CONFRONTATION AND STALEMATE AT THE UNGA IN THE FALL. A MUCH BETTER COURSE WOULD BE FOR THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION AT THE 31ST UNGA CALLING FOR CONCILIATION AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AS EMERGED FROM THE 1973 GA. A PARTISAN ENDORSEMENT OF THE IDEA OF ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAS KEPT THE PEACE FOR THE PAST 23 YEARS OUGHT TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS. I ADDED THAT WE QUESTION THE NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS OF THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, IN VIEW OF ITS SECURITY TREATIES WITH THE USSR AND THE PRC, WHICH I SUGGESTED HE READ.

5. SIR WALTER MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, BUT MERELY NOTED THAT THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN ASKING FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM FOR SOME TIME.
KEELEY

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